

Tip Sheet for Courthouse Visitors King County Superior Court

Welcome to Superior Court! Thank you for your interest in visiting the King County Courthouse or the Maleng Regional Justice Center. Here is information to ensure that your visit is enjoyable and educational. Each judge presides over his/her own courtroom, but there are general rules to follow when observing hearings or trials.

What to Expect When Arriving at the Courthouse

When arriving at either the Seattle or Kent courthouse, everyone is required to be screened at the Security Station. Please remove metal from all pockets, including cell phones and put them in one of the plastic bowls on the table prior to the metal screener. These items and any purses, backpacks, briefcases, or anything carried (except drinks, such as coffee) will go through the screening machine. You may also be screened with a hand wand after walking through the screener, if needed. The more prepared you are at the Security Station, the faster your entry will be.

Information and Calendars

You can pick up a calendar in the morning after 10:00AM at the Receptionist's area (published twice daily – morning and afternoon). This will list all judges and the trials or calendars they are currently hearing, and you can choose which courtroom(s) to observe. Courtroom numbers are listed next to the judge's name.

- Seattle Receptionist- C912
- Kent Receptionist – 2D
- Additional case information may be displayed on monitors on the main entry levels
- Calendars can be found on the King County Superior Court website at:
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/SuperiorCourt.aspx>. A link to the online calendar is located on the left hand side of the page under the title "Daily Calendar".

Superior Court Trials and Hearings

Superior Court trials include the following categories:

- Criminal trials: Examples are; murder, arson, drug charges, possession of stolen property, burglary, theft, rape, taking a motor vehicle. These are typically jury trials.
- Civil trials: Examples are; dissolution (divorce), medical malpractice, motor vehicle accidents/injuries, personal injury, commercial lawsuits, parenting plans, child support. These may be bench or jury trials.

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- Motion hearings are generally heard at 8:30AM and 4:00PM Monday through Thursday, and on Fridays. These hearings may involve summary judgment motions, post-conviction review hearings, sentencing hearings, and a wide range of other civil and criminal matters.
- In the Seattle Courthouse, trial courts are on floors 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10.
- In the Kent Courthouse, trial courts are on floors 3 and 4.
- Trials are heard Monday through Thursday. There are no trials in session on Friday.
- Trials typically start at 9:00AM and end at 4:00PM. There is a morning break at approximately 10:45AM and an afternoon break at approximately 2:45PM (these may vary depending on the proceedings). The lunch break is 12:00PM – 1:30PM.

Courtroom Etiquette

When going into a courtroom to observe a trial or hearing:

- Adult chaperones should accompany students at all times.
- Groups should be no larger than 10 people total.
- When entering or leaving a courtroom, please be mindful that there is a hearing or trial in session. Walk in and out quietly.
- Please remove hats, caps or hoods and turn off cell phones before entering a courtroom.
- Please do not bring food or drink into the courtroom.
- You may not take pictures or record audio unless you have the permission of the Judge to do so.
- Please observe any signs posted on the courtroom door prior to entry.
- Please do not sit in the row of seats directly behind counsel table as this area is reserved for security officers and court personnel.
- If the court has a “closed hearing”, there will be a sign on the door stating this. This hearing is closed to the public and you are not allowed to enter.
- If there is a criminal sexual assault or rape trial, we suggest that students refrain from observing these trials. There may be sensitive testimony that is not suitable for students.